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Ueber eine besondere Klasse abstracter Begriffe. M. RADAKOVIC. *Zeitschrift für Psychologie und Physiologie der Sinnesorgane,* June, 1906. Pp. 1-9.

The notion of the limit was successfully used in mathematics a considerable time before the necessary and sufficient conditions of the existence of a limit were known. This fact suggests the view that the notion of the mathematical limit is the product of a process of thinking used also in other fields of work, and that the acquaintance with this notion acquired elsewhere could be used in mathematics. It is important to study this process of thinking because from its application there results a new class of abstract notions. In finding the limit of the function $F(x) = y$ for $x = a$ the numbers y are arranged in a well-ordered series, and from this series the existence of another number is deduced which may or may not belong to the series, but which can be determined from it. This determination can be performed if one is able to recognize from the order of the numbers y a certain other number which they approach if x approaches a indefinitely. Abstract notions belonging to a certain type may be constructed in a similar way, as, *e. g.,* the notion of the straight line and of empty space. The empirical representatives of straight lines are rods, *i. e.,* bodies one dimension of which is so considerable that the other can be neglected. All rods of the same length may be arranged in the order of the size of their cross-sections. This series has no last term, because no matter how small the cross-section of a body, we can find another of still smaller size; this series is well defined because there is a rule according to which we can determine whether any object belongs to the series; and the series is well ordered because we can determine of any two terms which one comes first in the series. This series determines a new notion, that of a straight line. In a similar way we may arrange bodies of decreasing density and determine the value of certain constants for the terms of this series, *e. g.,* the velocity of light. Thus we obtain a series of numbers which corresponds to the velocity of light in bodies of decreasing density. These numbers approach a certain limit which corresponds to the velocity of light in the body of the density zero, *i. e.,* in empty space. Abstract notions of this class are derived from empirical objects by means of the following rules: (1) Attributes which are attributes of every term of the series are attributes of the abstract notion. (2) Attributes regardless of which the series was ordered are not attributes of the abstract notion. (3) Attributes which admit of quantitative variation and which vary in such a way that the numbers representing these quantities form a series the terms of which approach a certain limit, are attributes of the abstract notion, and the limit of the series gives the number characterizing the quantity. A corollary of this principle is the proposition that attributes which belong to the objects in always decreasing amount approaching the limit zero are not attributes of the abstract notion. It is easy to illustrate these rules by the examples of the straight line and of empty space. Abstract notions of this type are simpler than the objects of which they are characteristic. This simplicity and the fact that these notions may be represented by empirical objects with any degree of approximation is the reason of their extreme usefulness. This is proved by their ample use in physics and in most parts of applied mathematics.

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JOURNALS AND NEW BOOKS

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PSYCHOLOGY. October, 1906, Vol. XVII., No. 4. *Jealousy* (pp. 437–496): ARNOLD L. GESELL. – Jealousy is found in the higher orders of animals and in all races of man, appearing in the child during the first year. Its function is self-protection, and especially protection of the individual against the group. An analysis of jealousy shows it to be a painful complex emotion, the most prominent elements of which are anger, grief and self-pity. It is an important factor in education and in the different social institutions, especially the family. Its practical importance is forcibly brought out by pathology and criminology. *Memory for Lifted Weights* (pp. 497–521): E. A. HAYDEN. – The results fail to show any regularly fading memory image as a factor in the judgment of lifted weights. The judgment seems rather to be based upon the nature of the motor adjustment, being 'equal' when the adjustment is just sufficient, 'less' when more than this and 'greater' when less. This is, on the whole, in agreement with the Müller and Schumann theory. *Organic Changes and Feeling* (pp. 522–584): JOHN F. SHEPARD. – The tridimensional theory of feeling as advanced by Wundt and Lehmann has no basis in organic reactions. No three pairs of reactions corresponding to the three feeling-dimensions are found, nor any difference between those accompanying agreeableness and disagreeableness. Instead it is found that: (1) all moderate nervous activity decreases the volume and pulse of the peripheral vessels and at the same time increases the volume and pulse in the brain and the rate of the heart beat; (2) strong stimuli have both an inhibiting and an exciting effect; (3) the activity of any part tends to counteract constriction of the blood-vessels of that part. *Psychological Literature. Psychiatrical Literature. Index to Vol. XVII.*

Bierer, Everard. *The Evolution of Religions.* New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1906. xv + 385.

Bruno, Giordano. *Opere Italiane.* I. *Dialoghi Metafisici.* Con note di Giovanni Gentile. Bari: Gius. Laterza & Figli. 1907. Pp. xxii + 418.

De Montmorency, J. E. G. *Thomas à Kempis. His Age and Book.* New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons; London: Methuen & Co. 1906. Pp. viii + 312. $2.25.